

- WAYNE - GORDON - HOUSE -

- SAVANNAH - GEORGIA -

HABS NO. GA-211

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Georgia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer  
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

THE WAYNE-GORDON HOUSE

Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

Owner: Estate Eleanor Gordon Parker. ~~GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA (1954)~~

Date of Erection: Begun 1819 - Finished before 1831.

Architect - Builder: Attributed to William Jay.

Present Condition: Good. Third story added.

Number of Stories: Three and high basement. Faces south.

Materials of Construction: Foundation brick. Floors of wood.

Exterior walls brick stuccoed. Roof is metal.

Additional Data: Originally built for Associate Justice of Supreme Court, J. M. Wayne, who, however, sold it soon afterwards to W. W. Gordon. The house has been in the possession of the Gordon family ever since, the present occupant, G. Arthur Gordon, being the 3rd generation. Famous guests: Pres. McKinley, Admiral Schley and Pres. Taft, Alex. Stephens, Andrew Dev...

Mr. G. Arthur Gordon writes: " I have found papers which give the following facts; - On May 10, 1817, Robert Isaac gave a deed to James M. Wayne. On July 12, 1819, the city engineer, John McKinnen, certified that he had made a survey of the corner lot for James M. Wayne and 'fixed the foundations of the building now erecting on said lot." On June 4, 1831 there was a deed from James M. Wayne and wife to W. W. Gordon for the lot and the building thereon." Succession of occupancy: William Washington Gordon, Mayor of City, and originator of Ga. Central R. R., 1831-1842; his widow until 1881; Gen. W. H. Gordon until 1912; G. Arthur Gordon and family present occupants.

Center hall with two rooms on each side. Curved stair in rear

of hall, the back of stair hall wall being semi-circular on inside, straight on outside. The rooms on left connected by solid mahogany paneled double sliding doors, flanked by engaged Ionic columns. The rear rooms on each side on each story have curved walls at the back with inside chimneys in the center of the curve. African black marble mantels. Plaster walls, cornices, and ceiling medallions. Much of the original furnishings still intact.

Stoop at back consists of single slab of stone supported by 2 cast Iron columns with curving stone steps to court below. Out-buildings altered; rear yard enclosed by buildings and wall.

*Harold Bush-Brown*

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN Feb 10, 1937  
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

3/9/37 - 116

## *The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace*

(1818-1821)

Savannah, Ga.

This property, now a National program center owned and operated by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. since 1953, is also a museum of historical memorabilia of Juliette Gordon Low and of Girl Scouting and an historic restoration of national interest to both Girl Scouts and Girl Scout friends being the birthplace of the founder of Girl Scouting, Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927), a dynamic, creative American personality.

The house, designed by William Jay, is a fine example of English Regency architecture on a historic corner, Oglethorpe Avenue at Bull Street, important to Savannah since Colonial days, 1733.

The house was built for James Moore Wayne who became Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court and sold the property to William Washington Gordon I, grandfather of Juliette Gordon Low, in 1831. Five generations of Gordons lived here.

Many of the furnishings used in the house today belonged to the Gordon Family and to Juliette Low.

The Garden of the 1870's is restored to the period of Juliette Gordon Low's girlhood days here. The old stable and carriage house serve present-day needs as a Troop House for program activities of visiting Girl Scout troops, and as administrative office and Gift Shop.



Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

### **The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace**

142 Bull Street  
Savannah, Georgia

A Program Center of the Girl Scouts of the U. S. A.